

## NOAA In Your State



# Rhode Island



*“NOAA’s science based work touches 300 million Americans daily, protecting lives and livelihoods. NOAA’s products and services are the result of the hard work of our dedicated staff and partner organizations located in program and research offices throughout the globe. The following is a summary of NOAA programs based in, and focused on, your state or territory. The entries are listed by statewide, region, and then by congressional districts and cities or towns.”*

Dr. Kathryn Sullivan

Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere and NOAA Administrator

### RI

#### Statewide

#### National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) - [Bay-Watershed Education and Training Program](#)

The NOAA Bay-Watershed Education and Training (B-WET) Program is an environmental education program that promotes locally relevant, experiential learning in the K-12 environment. The primary delivery of B-WET is through competitive funding that promotes Meaningful Watershed Educational Experiences (MWEEs). The New England B-WET Program recognizes that knowledge and commitment built from firsthand experience, especially in the context of one's community and culture, is essential for achieving environmental stewardship. New England B-WET responds to regional education and environmental priorities through local implementation of competitive grant funds.

#### National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) - [Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office](#) and [Northeast Fisheries Science Center](#)

NMFS is responsible for the management, conservation and protection of living marine resources within the United States' Exclusive Economic Zone (water three to 200 mile offshore). Using the tools provided by the *Magnuson-Stevens Act*, NMFS assesses and predicts the status of fish stocks, develops and ensures compliance with fisheries regulations, restores and protects habitat and works to reduce wasteful fishing practices, and promotes sustainable fisheries. Under the *Marine Mammal Protection Act* and the *Endangered Species Act*, NMFS recovers protected marine species (e.g. whales, turtles).

The Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office (located in Gloucester, MA) includes divisions that promote sustainable fisheries, habitat conservation, and recovery of protected species, and conducts statistical analysis and programs supporting these divisions. Key fish species managed in the Greater Atlantic Region include the northeast “multispecies

complex” (cod, haddock, yellowtail flounder etc.), Atlantic sea scallops, sea herring, lobster, and summer flounder. Key marine endangered species in this region are northern right whales, Kemp’s ridley sea turtles, Atlantic salmon and Atlantic and shortnose sturgeons. NMFS is the lead agency coordinating the Large Whale and Sea Turtle Disentanglement Program activities and the Marine Mammal Health and Stranding Response Program activities. The core functions of these programs include coordinating volunteer networks to: respond to entanglements and strandings, investigate mortality events, and conduct biomonitoring, tissue/serum banking, and analytical quality assurance.

The Northeast Fisheries Science Center (headquartered in Woods Hole, MA) focuses on collection, analysis, and presentation of scientific information about the Northeast Shelf ecosystem, its condition, and its marine life. In addition to its five laboratories including the Narragansett, Rhode Island Laboratory, the Center owns and uses four research vessels to support its work. They are: the NOAA ships *Henry B. Bigelow*, and the small research vessels *Gloria Michelle*, *Victor Loosanoff*, and *Nauvoo*. The Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office and the Science Center are responsible for the District of Columbia and the following states: Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, and North Carolina; and the inland states of Vermont, Minnesota, Michigan, Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, and West Virginia.

#### **National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) - [Restoration Center](#)**

NMFS Restoration Center works with municipal, state, and other federal agencies, non-governmental organizations, and other project partners in Rhode Island to remove dams and other physical barriers to migratory fishes, modify or replace culverts to restore tidal exchange and tidal wetlands, restore eelgrass beds and native shellfish populations, and implement projects to increase resiliency of Rhode Island’s coast and communities. Nearly 50 projects have been constructed in the State since 1998 and 5,000 volunteers have contributed their time and effort to restore Rhode Island habitat. The Damage Assessment, Remediation, and Restoration Program collaborates with state, other federal, and tribal entities and also works with cleanup agencies (such as the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency), local organizations, the public, and those responsible for the incident to: protect coastal and marine natural resources; respond to discharges of oil and hazardous substances; assess risks and injuries to natural resources; and restore injured natural resources and related socioeconomic benefits.

#### **National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) - [Office of Law Enforcement](#)**

NOAA’s Office of Law Enforcement is the only conservation enforcement program (Federal or State) that is exclusively dedicated to Federal fisheries and marine resource enforcement. Its mission is to protect global marine resources by enforcing domestic laws and international treaties and obligations dedicated to protecting wildlife and their natural habitat. Our special agents and enforcement officers ensure compliance with these laws and take enforcement action if there are violations. Additionally, the Cooperative Enforcement Program allows NOAA the ability to leverage the resources and assistance of 27 coast states and U.S. territorial marine conservation law enforcement agencies in direct support of the Federal enforcement mission. Effective fisheries law enforcement is critical to creating a level playing field for U.S. fishermen and enabling sustainable fisheries to support vibrant coastal communities. The Office of Law Enforcement’s Northeast Division is headquartered in Gloucester, MA.

#### **National Ocean Service (NOS) - [Regional Ocean Council](#)**

To maintain quality constituent service, the NOAA Office for Coastal Management staff in this region work with the Northeast Regional Ocean Council and the coastal states on this board by representing NOAA and serving in leadership roles in three priority areas: ocean planning, coastal hazards resilience and ocean and coastal ecosystem health. These staff also coordinates the deployment of NOAA products and services in this region.

### **National Ocean Service (NOS) - [Regional Geodetic Advisor](#)**

The Geodetic Advisor is a jointly funded National Ocean Service (NOS) employee that resides in the state to provide liaison between NOS and the host state. The Geodetic Advisor guides and assists the state's charting, geodetic and surveying programs through technical expertise. The program is designed to fill a need for more accurate geodetic surveys, and is in response to the desire of states to improve their surveying techniques to meet Federal Geodetic Control subcommittee standards and specifications. The surveys provide the basis for all forms of mapping and engineering projects and monitoring of the dynamic Earth. This program also provides technical assistance in planning and implementing Geographic/Land Information System (GIS/LIS) projects.

### **National Weather Service (NWS) - Automated Surface Observing Systems [Stations](#)**

The Automated Surface Observing Systems (ASOS) program is a joint effort of the National Weather Service (NWS), the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), and the Department of Defense (DOD). ASOS serves as the Nation's primary surface weather observing network. ASOS is designed to support weather forecast activities and aviation operations and, at the same time, support the needs of the meteorological, hydrological, and climatological research communities. ASOS works non-stop, updating observations every minute, 24 hours a day, every day of the year observing basic weather elements, such as cloud cover, precipitation, wind, sea level pressure, and conditions, such as rain, snow, freezing rain, thunderstorms, and fog. There are three ASOS stations in Rhode Island.

### **National Weather Service (NWS) - Cooperative Observer Program [Sites](#)**

The National Weather Service (NWS) Cooperative Observer Program (COOP) is truly the Nation's weather and climate observing network of, by and for the people. More than 10,000 volunteers take observations on farms, in urban and suburban areas, National Parks, seashores, and mountaintops. The data are representative of where people live, work and play. The COOP was formally created in 1890 under the NWS Organic Act to provide observational meteorological data, usually consisting of daily maximum and minimum temperatures, snowfall, and 24-hour precipitation totals, required to define the climate of the United States and to help measure long-term climate changes, and to provide observational meteorological data in near real-time to support forecast, warning and other public service programs of the NWS. The data are also used by other federal (including the Department of Homeland Security), state and local entities, as well as private companies (such as the energy and insurance industries). In some cases, the data are used to make billions of dollars' worth of decisions. For example, the energy sector uses COOP data to calculate the Heating and Cooling Degree Days which are used to determine homeowners' monthly energy bills. There are six COOP sites in Rhode Island.

### **National Weather Service (NWS) - NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards [Transmitters](#)**

NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards (NWR) is a nationwide network of radio stations broadcasting continuous weather information directly from the nearest National Weather Service (NWS) forecast office. NWR broadcasts official NWS warnings, watches, forecasts and other hazard information 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Working with the Federal Communication Commission's (FCC) Emergency Alert System, NWR is an "All Hazards" radio network, making it the single source for comprehensive weather and emergency information. In conjunction with federal, state, and local emergency managers and other public officials, NWR also broadcasts warning and post-event information for all types of hazards – including natural (such as earthquakes or avalanches), environmental (such as chemical releases or oil spills), and public safety (such as AMBER alerts or 911 Telephone outages). Known as the "Voice of NOAA's National Weather Service," NWR is provided as a public service by the NWS. NWR includes 1,100 transmitters covering all 50 states, adjacent coastal waters, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the U.S. Pacific Territories. There is one NWR transmitter in Rhode Island.

#### **Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR) - [National Sea Grant Library](#)**

The National Sea Grant Library (NSGL) is the digital library and official archive for NOAA Sea Grant documents. It is housed on the University of Rhode Island Bay Campus and is the only comprehensive collection of Sea Grant-funded documents. This collection includes almost 50,000 titles on various topics including oceanography, marine education, aquaculture, fisheries, aquatic nuisance species, coastal hazards, seafood safety, limnology, coastal zone management, marine recreation, and law. The NSGL provides global access to over 25,000 full-text digital documents through the online publications catalog. For those documents not available electronically, or for those patrons that prefer hard copy documents, the NSGL is happy to provide 30 day loans (worldwide) to assist scientists, teachers, students, fishermen, and others in their research and studies.

#### **Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR) - [Sea Grant College Program](#)**

NOAA's National Sea Grant College Program is a federal-university partnership that integrates research, education and outreach (extension and communications). Sea Grant forms a network of 33 programs in all U.S. coastal and Great Lakes states, Puerto Rico and Guam. The Rhode Island Sea Grant Program, based at the University of Rhode Island's Graduate School of Oceanography, supports research that aligns with its core themes of resilient coastal communities, healthy ecosystems and sustainable seafood. Supplementing its research efforts, Rhode Island Sea Grant is also strongly engaged in outreach, education, legal and communication activities in both Rhode Island Congressional Districts.

#### ***Coastal***

#### **National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) - [Deep-Sea Coral Research and Technology Program](#)**

The Deep Sea Coral Research and Technology Program—called for in the reauthorization of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act—is currently conducting a three-year field research effort off the Northeastern U.S. The 2012-2015 field research will not only improve knowledge about deep-sea life off the northeastern seaboard, but will also inform the New England and Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Councils in their efforts to manage commercial and recreational fisheries that depend on these and other important habitats.

#### **National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) - [Sea Turtle Salvage and Stranding Network](#)**

The Sea Turtle Stranding and Salvage Network (STSSN) was formally established in 1980 to collect information on and document strandings of marine turtles along the U.S. Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic coasts. The network, which includes federal, state and private partners, encompasses the coastal areas of the eighteen-state region from Maine to Texas, and includes portions of the U.S. Caribbean. Data gathered by the Network helps inform bycatch reduction efforts, track factors affecting turtle health, and provide other information needed for sea turtle management and population recovery.

#### **National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) - [National Marine Mammal Stranding Network](#) and [John H. Prescott Marine Mammal Rescue Assistance Grant Program](#)**

The National Marine Mammal Stranding Network and its trained professionals respond to dead or live marine mammals in distress that are stranded, entangled, out of habitat or otherwise in peril. Our long-standing partnership with the Network provides valuable environmental intelligence, helping NOAA establish links among the health of marine mammals, coastal ecosystems, and coastal communities as well as develop effective conservation programs for marine mammal populations in the wild. Mystic Aquarium in Mystic, CT, is authorized to respond to reports of marine mammal strandings along the Rhode Island coastline.

NOAA Fisheries funds eligible members of the Stranding Network through the competitive John H. Prescott Marine Mammal Rescue Assistance Grant Program. Since 2001, \$48.2 million has been awarded to 552 grantees who raised over \$15.9 million in matching funds. In FY15, 34 grantees received \$2.7 million.

**National Ocean Service (NOS) - [Coastal Management Program](#)**

Through a unique Federal-state partnership, NOAA's Office for Ocean Coastal Management works with the Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Council to implement the National Coastal Zone Management Program in Rhode Island. NOAA's Office for Coastal Management provides the coastal management program with financial and technical assistance to further the goals of the Coastal Zone Management Act and ensure our coastal waters and lands are used in a balanced way to support jobs, reduce use conflicts, and sustain natural resources.

**National Ocean Service (NOS) - [Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program](#)**

The Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program (CELCP) brings conservation partners together to protect coastal and estuarine lands considered important for their ecological, conservation, recreational, historical, or aesthetic values. To date CELCP has protected more than 100,000 acres of land nationally and awarded five projects in Rhode Island. The program provides state and local governments with matching funds to purchase significant coastal and estuarine lands, or conservation easements on these important lands that are threatened by development. Lands or conservation easements acquired with CELCP funds are protected in perpetuity so that they may be enjoyed by future generations. CELCP has created an interactive map highlighting information about completed projects in your state.

**National Ocean Service (NOS) - [Atlantic Environmental Response Management Application](#)**

Assessing important spatial information and designing successful restoration projects rely upon interpreting and mapping geographic information, including the location, duration, and impacts from oil spills, other hazardous materials, or debris released into the environment. Atlantic ERMA® is an online mapping tool that integrates both static and real-time data, such as Environmental Sensitivity Index (ESI) maps, ship locations, weather, and ocean currents, in a centralized, easy-to-use format for environmental responders and decision makers. In the fall of 2012, Atlantic ERMA was employed as the Common Operational Picture for the U.S. Coast Guard's pollution response to Hurricane Sandy in New York and New Jersey waters.

**National Ocean Service (NOS) - [Marine Debris Projects and Partnerships](#)**

The NOAA Marine Debris Program (MDP) leads national and international efforts to research, prevent, and reduce the impacts of marine debris. The program supports marine debris removal, education and outreach, and research projects in partnership with state and local agencies, tribes, non-governmental organizations, academia, and industry. The Marine Debris Removal Grant Program is funding work by Clean Bays to remove 165 tons of debris from an 18 mile stretch of East Providence shoreline.

**National Ocean Service (NOS) - [Northeastern Regional Association of Coastal Ocean Observing Systems](#)**

U.S. IOOS® is an operational system and a network of regional partners responsible for regional observations, data management, modeling and analysis, education and outreach, and research and development. The overarching purpose of U.S. IOOS is to address regional and national needs for ocean data and information. The Northeastern Regional Association of Coastal Ocean Observing Systems (NERACOOS) is one of these Regional Associations was established to network and expand the existing observing and prediction capacities of a multitude of institutions and agencies throughout New England and Maritime Canada. NERACOOS supports infrastructure that provides over-water meteorological and wave observations in Long Island Sound and the Gulf of Maine to the National Weather Service that are critical to safe navigation. These platforms also support current and dissolved oxygen sensors that provide critical information for management of hypoxia and harmful algal bloom. Fisheries managers, water quality specialists, the Coast Guard, and many others benefit from accurate and timely ocean observing infrastructure and related decision support tools. The region includes the coastal waters of Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Connecticut. There is overlap with the Mid-Atlantic Coastal Ocean Observing Regional Association (MARACOOS), which also includes the coastal waters of Connecticut and Rhode Island. In addition, partners from the Canadian provinces of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia will be involved to ensure appropriate coverage in shared waters.



## **RI-1**

### **Newport**

#### **Office of Marine and Aviation Operations (OMAO) - [NOAA Ship Henry B. Bigelow](#)**

The NOAA Ship *Henry B. Bigelow* is managed by NOAA's Marine Operations Center-Atlantic in Norfolk, Virginia, and is homeported at the United States Naval station in Newport. The ship supports the science and research missions of NOAA's Northeast Fisheries Science Center and its supporting laboratories. The vessel is operated under the direction of officers from the NOAA Commissioned Officer Corps. The NOAA Corps today provides a cadre of professionals trained in engineering, earth sciences, oceanography, meteorology, fisheries science, and other related disciplines. Officers operate ships, fly aircraft, manage research projects, conduct diving operations, and serve in staff positions throughout NOAA.

## **RI-1, 2**

### **Newport, Providence**

#### **National Ocean Service (NOS) - [Narragansett Bay PORTS®](#)**

A Physical Oceanographic Real-Time System (PORTS®) is operated cooperatively with the local maritime community in Narragansett Bay at which real-time data are quality-controlled and disseminated to local users for safe and efficient navigation. Real-time water level data are available at five stations, currents at three stations, meteorological data at seven locations, visibility sensors (fog) at two locations, and conductivity at four locations.

#### **National Ocean Service (NOS) - [National Water Level Observation Network](#)**

NOS operates two long-term, continuously operating tide stations in the state of Rhode Island which provide data and information on tidal datums and relative sea level trends, and are capable of producing real-time data for storm surge warning. These stations are located at Newport and Providence. Each station is associated with a set of tidal benchmarks installed in the ground that is used to reference the height of the water levels and helps connect the water level to land.

## **RI-2**

### **Davisville**

#### **Office of Marine and Aviation Operations (OMAO) - [NOAA Ship Okeanos Explorer](#)**

The NOAA Ship *Okeanos Explorer* is managed by NOAA's Marine Operations Center-Atlantic in Norfolk, Virginia, and is homeported in Davisville. Known as "America's ship for ocean exploration," NOAA Ship *Okeanos Explorer* is dedicated solely to exploration. The ship conducts operations around the globe, mapping the seafloor and characterizing largely unknown areas of the ocean. Interesting seafloor features can be discovered with the deep-water multibeam sonar mapping system and investigated by the ship's remotely-operated vehicles among other sensors and systems. With telepresence technology, the exploration team can send live video images from the seafloor to scientists and other audiences ashore. The vessel is operated under the direction of officers from the NOAA Commissioned Officer Corps. The NOAA Corps today provides a cadre of professionals trained in engineering, earth sciences, oceanography, meteorology, fisheries science, and other related disciplines. Officers operate ships, fly aircraft, manage research projects, conduct diving operations, and serve in staff positions throughout NOAA.

## **Kingston**

#### **National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service (NESDIS) and Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR) - [U.S. Climate Reference Network](#)**

The U.S. Climate Reference Network (USCRN) is an operationally viable research network of 134 climate stations that are deployed nationwide. Data from the USCRN are used in various climate monitoring activities and for placing current climate anomalies into an historical perspective. The USCRN provides the United States with a reference network that contributes to an International network under the auspices of the Global Climate Observing System (GCOS).

### ***Narragansett***

#### **National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) - [Narragansett Laboratory](#)**

The laboratory is conveniently located adjacent to the University of Rhode Island's Graduate School of Oceanography and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Laboratory on Narragansett Bay. Research activities focus on ecosystem assessment, climate assessment, stock assessment on the Northeast U.S. Shelf. The Ecosystem Monitoring survey headed by this laboratory is one of the longest and most comprehensive oceanographic surveys in the country. These data along with many other sources are used in the development of products to support Ecosystem-Based Fisheries Management as well as traditional single-species stock assessment. The Laboratory also includes NOAA's Northeast Apex Predator investigation, which maintains the world's longest time series of catch-and-release tag data for Atlantic Coast sharks. The laboratory also hosts the Science Center's Northeast Cooperative Research Program and NOAA Fisheries' Northeast Habitat Conservation Division staff who work to restore fishery habitats and diadromous fish passage throughout the Southern New England region including Narragansett Bay, Long Island Sound and Buzzards Bay and the contributing watersheds.

#### **National Ocean Service (NOS) - [Navigation Manager](#)**

NOAA's navigation managers work directly with pilots, port authorities, and recreational boating organizations in Rhode Island. They help identify the navigational challenges facing marine transportation in Rhode Island and provide NOAA's resources and services that promote safe and efficient navigation. Navigation managers are on call to provide expertise and NOAA navigation response coordination in case of severe coastal weather events or other marine emergencies. The Office of Coast Survey has a navigation manager in Narragansett, RI to support mariners and stakeholders in the Northeast region.

#### **Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR) - [Office of Ocean Exploration and Research](#)**

NOAA's Office of Ocean Exploration and Research focuses on interdisciplinary exploration; systematic research of extreme and unique environments, continental shelf ecosystems, new ocean resources, and ocean dynamics; advanced technology development; and communication of results through education and outreach. The OER Rhode Island office was established in 2004 through partnerships with URI and the Sea Research Foundation's Institute for Exploration to establish a systematic program in ocean exploration facilitated by telepresence technology. Telepresence technology uses satellites and Internet2 to transmit data in real-time from the NOAA ship Okeanos Explorer's remotely-operated vehicles working at depth to shore-based centers around the country, and even in other parts of the world. The hub for this technology is the state-of-the-art Inner Space Center (ISC), in the Ocean Science and Exploration Center on the URI Graduate School of Oceanography campus. The NOAA OER Regional Office is conveniently located adjacent to the ISC.

### ***Point Judith***

#### **National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) - [Port Agent Field Office](#)**

The Greater Atlantic Region's Port Agent Team works directly with the fishing industries of the region to provide in-person advice and support to fishermen and seafood dealers. Port agents also serve as a conduit for industry to relay information to the Regional Administrator and other NOAA staff about fishing industry concerns, thoughts and activities. Team members assist seafood dealers and vessel operators and owners with data reporting requirements, in navigating the permitting process, and with other Agency regulations and processes. They collect biological samples of seafood landed by commercial fishermen for use in fisheries stock assessments. They also provide the general public with information on fisheries and the marine environment by attending public events and through ad-hoc interactions.

### *Prudence Island*

#### **National Ocean Service (NOS) - [Narragansett Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve](#)**

The 4,259-acre Narragansett Bay Reserve was designated in 1980 and is managed by the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management. The reserve includes undisturbed salt marshes, tidal flats, rocky shores, open waters, upland fields, forests and a historic farm site. The Reserve contains a major watershed and the largest stream on Prudence Island. A deep-water pier and recreational facility are located at South Prudence. The Reserve provides on and off-site exhibits and educational programs and has developed a hiker's trail guide.

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**NOAA**

NATIONAL OCEANIC AND  
ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

